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E.O. 12065: GDS 8 18 86 (LEWRENCE) OR-M
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: U.S. COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO INVESTIGATE DESTABILIZATION CHARGES

1. (C). SUMMARY: A DELEGATION OF PROMINENT BLACK AMERICANS IS BEGINNING TO ARRIVE IN KINGSTON TODAY (AUG 18) "TO SEEK TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE USG HAS INTERFERED OR IS INTERFERING IN JAMAICA'S AFFAIRS." THEY WILL MEET WITH GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION PARTY OFFICIALS, COMMUNITY LEADERS, AND "ORDINARY JAMAICAN CITIZENS." THEY HAVE REQUESTED (AND BEEN GRANTED) AN EMBASSY BRIEFING ON AUGUST 22. BECAUSE I HAVE SOME MISGIVING ON THE USE OR MISUSE OF THIS INQUIRY BY LOCAL POLITICIANS, I PLAN TO GIVE THEM A FULL UNCLASSIFIED BRIEFING ON USG ACTIVITIES IN JAMAICA AND, WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE, TO DESCRIBE OUR "BUSINESS AS USUAL" POLICY AND OUR NEUTRALITY IN THE ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF A LETTER I RECEIVED THIS MORNING FROM THE COMMISSION'S SECRETARIAT:

"DEAR SIR:

MEMBERS OF AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD JAMAICA WILL ARRIVE IN KINGSTON THIS MONDAY, AUGUST 18TH, ON A FACT-FINDING MISSION. THE COMMISSION MEMBERS WILL INCLUDE: REV. DR. JOSEPH LOWERY OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN

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LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SCLC), HOPE STEVENS (COMMENT: THE COMMISSION PRESS RELEASE LISTS DEBORAH JACKSON INSTEAD OF HOPE STEVENS) OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BLACK LAWYERS, PROF. ANN SEIDMAN OF BROWN UNIVERSITY, PROF. JAMES TURNER OF CORNELL UNIVERSTIY, PROF. IRICHARD SHAULL OF THE PRINCETON UNIVERSITY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, STATE SENATOR JULIAN BOND OF GEORGIA, RANDAL ROBINSON OF TRANSAFRICA, AND ALEX STEPICK (OBSERVER AND THE LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT OF CONGRESSMAN IELAND OF TEXAS).

THE DECISION TO FORM THE COMMISSION BY CONCERNED U.S. CITIZENS WAS PROMPTED BY THE DETERIORATING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN JAMAICA AND THE U.S. THE PURPOSES OF THE INQUIRY IS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE US GOVERNMENT HAS INTERFERED OR IS INTERFERING IN THE AFFAIRS OF JAMAICA. WHILE IN JAMAICA, THE COMMISSION MEMBERS WILL HAVE EXTENSIVE TALKS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, MEMBERS OF OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES, LEADERS IN THE CHURCHES, TRADE UNIONS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, WOMEN AND YOUTH GROUPS, REPRESENTATIVES

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OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND ORDINARY JAMAICAN CITIZENS.
THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION WILL BE IN JAMAICA THE WEEK OF AUGUST 18TH TO THE 22ND. A COMMISSION SECRETARIAT HAS BEEN SET UP IN KINGSTON TO FACILITATE THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION. AS MEMBERS OF THAT SECRETARIAT, WE ARE ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS FOR THE COMMISSION. MAY WE CALL ON YOU THIS COMING MONDAY, THE 18TH, TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT WHILE THE COMMISSION IS IN KINGSTON?
FOR THE COMMISSION SECRETARIAT
SYBIL WONG
NEW KINGSTON HOTEL
KINGSTON
END QUOTE.
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3. (C) THE COMMISSION HAS SCHEDULED A PRESS CONFERENCE FOR TOMORROW, AUGUST 19. FOLLOWING OUR INQUIRY, WE WERE TOLD THAT USICA REPRESENTATION WOULD BE WELCOME AND WE WILL SEND SOMEONE. THE COMMISSION ALSO REQUESTED A MEETING WITH ME ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, THEIR LAST DAY IN JAMAICA. WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF SECTION AND AGENCY HEADS, I PLAN TO GIVE THEM A FULL UNCLASSIFIED BRIEFING ON THE USG'S PURPOSE AND ACTIVITIES IN JAMAICA. IN ADDITION, I FEEL THAT IS IMPORTANT FOR ME TO BE ABLE TO DESCRIBE OUR POLICY OF NEUTRALITY IN THE JAMAICAN ELECTIONS, OUR INTEREST THAT THE ELECTIONS BE FAIRLY CONDUCTED, AND OUR "BUSINESS AS USUAL" PLLICY ON AID TO JAMAICA. I HEREBY REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE IN MY INCLUDING THESE ASPECTS IN THE FRIDAY BRIEFING:
4. (C) BEGIN FYI: I AM A LITTLE DISTRUBED BY SOME ASPECTS OF THE COMMISSION WHICH MAY BODE ILL FOR OUR EFFORTS NOT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE JAMAICAN ELECTION CAMPAIGN. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY ARE BEING HOUSED AT THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED NEW KINGSTON HOTEL, WHICH IS LITTLE USED BY MOST VISITING AMERICANS BUT HAS BEEN USED BY IN RECENT WEEKS TO ACCOMMODATE GROUPS (COVERT ACTION'S - LOUIS WOLF AND FRED LANDIS) BEING USED TO PUSH THE CIA DESTABILIZATION CHARGES. IN ADDITION, ONE MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION, DEBORAH JACKSON OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BLACK LAWYERS, WAS IN KINGSTON A FEW WEEKS AGO ON A SIMILAR MISSION-- TO EXPLORE DESTABILIZATION CHRGES -- AND GAVE A TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE WHERE SHE DENOUNCED INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM (A CODE-EXPRESSION FOR THE USG USED BY JAMAICA'S LEFTIST ELEMENTS) AND DESTABILIZATION IN GENERAL. SEE ALSO DESCRIBED THE TERRIBLE THINGS THE CIA AND FBI DID TO POOR BLACKS IN THE UNITED STATES. SHE LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE CIA WAS DOING SIMILAR TERRIBLE THINGS IN JAMAICA. I HOPE THAT BY GIVING THE COMMISSION F INQUIRY A FULL, FRANK BRIEFING ON WHAT THE USG ACTUALLY DOES IN JAMAICA WE CAN PREVENT A SIMILAR OUTCOME. END FYI.
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